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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D), B6

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00
	UTED-00	VCI-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00
	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	PA-00
	MCC-00	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00	R-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/001W					

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P 211851Z NOV 05  
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
 AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY  
 SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2203

UNCLAS CARACAS 003468

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PREF, VE  
 SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR INAUGURATES AMERICAN CORNERS IN  
 ANZOATEGUI STATE

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SUMMARY  
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1. (U) The Ambassador revisited Anzoategui State November 9 to inaugurate an American Corners/Virtual Consulate in the city of Lecheria. He also utilized the occasion to visit Friends of Children With Cleft Palates (FUNDAMIGOS), a USAID-funded local charity designed to provide free surgical procedures for hundreds of underprivileged children in Venezuela suffering from cleft palates and to reach out to the American citizen community. During an interview with Giovanni Daboin on "Dentro Por Pais", a daily program aired on pro-government television station Telecaribe, the Ambassador responded to questions related to the transfer of F-16s, the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), and deceased Venezuelan prosecutor Danilo Anderson.

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 End Summary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 NOV 2015  
 DATE/CASE ID: 05 MAY 2009 200705281

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AMBASSADOR SUITS UP FOR THE ER  
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2. (U) During his second visit to Anzoategui state on November 9, the Ambassador made his first stop at the Luis Razetti University Hospital of Barcelona, home of local children's charity Friends of Children With Cleft Palates (FUNDAMIGOS). Launched in 1992, FUNDAMIGOS provides free surgical procedures for underprivileged children in Venezuela who suffer from cleft palates. USAID provided approximately USD 41,000 in financial support for the project. The money was used to provide logistical support and lodging for a team of 15 U.S. medical experts, from the Illinois-based Carle Foundation, who traveled to Anzoategui to assist in performing roughly 120 reconstructive surgeries between November 5 - 12. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] expressed gratitude for USAID's financial support and commemorated the Ambassador's visit with a plaque. Press coverage was excellent.

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AMCITS EXPRESS CONCERNS TO AMBASSADOR  
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3. (U) More than 50 American Citizens (Amcits) living in the state of Anzoategui participated in the Ambassador's town hall meeting at the Maremares Hotel in Lecheria.

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[REDACTED] One U.S. citizen asked whether or not the U.S. government would offer assistance to amcits if the Venezuelan government expropriated their mobile investments (i.e., boats). The Ambassador said the government was prepared to offer amcits maximum support but emphasized that, depending on how it was done, expropriation for public use was not necessarily illegal under international law. He also urged amcits to update contact information with local wardens to ensure that, in the event of forced departure, they received adequate warning and had sufficient time to depart the country safely.

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AMBASSADOR CHATS WITH MAYOR BEFORE INAUGURATION  
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4. (SBU) The Ambassador met briefly with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] immediately before inaugurating Anzoategui's first American Corners/Virtual Consulate. (Note: American Corners is a

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collection of donated books written by American authors and translated into Spanish. The facility is also equipped with computer terminals that connect users directly to Embassy's virtual consulate).

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5. (U) The Ambassador capitalized on every opportunity to emphasize the usefulness of the American Corners program. He said American Corners Lecheria would eliminate the necessity to travel from Anzoategui to Caracas in search of information related to commercial activities, education and travel.

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has agreed to provide at least 20 hours of free access to the facility per week.

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MEET THE PRESS: F-16s, FTAA AND DANILO ANDERSON  
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6. (U) During the interview with Giovanni Daboin on "Dentro Por Pais", a program aired daily on pro-government television station Telecaribe, the Ambassador responded to three pertinent topics - F-16s, the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), and the case of Danilo Anderson. Regarding Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez' threat to transfer roughly 10 F-16 fighter jets to Cuba and China, the Ambassador emphasized that an existing contract between the U.S. and Venezuelan governments requires the GoV to obtain the United States' consent before initiating a transfer. He also countered Chavez' claim that the FTAA was "buried" during the Summit of the Americas (SAO), commenting that 29 of the hemisphere's 34 countries were ready to proceed with the agreement. In response to GoV allegations that the U.S. government played a role in the assassination of Venezuelan Prosecutor Danilo Anderson, the Ambassador denied the involvement of any authority, agency or organization affiliated with the U.S. government and urged the GoV to present any evidence that linked an American citizen to Anderson's murder.

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COMMENT

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7. (SBU) Ambassador Brownfield's visits outside of Caracas provide Post with a unique, but subtle, opportunity to implement the U.S. government's vision of democracy building in Venezuela through outreaches to civil society programs and groups, business leaders, political leaders and local charities; groups and individuals often neglected by the national government. Instead of direct, overt confrontations, it is action, our humanitarianism, that disseminates a positive image of the United States to Venezuelan public

B1

Brownfield

NNNN

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